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ECONOMIC LOSSES OF HUNGARY DURING THE WAR

Hungaria
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The following report is based on a survey, published by the Hungarian Central Statistical Office in 1946, of Hungary's economic losses during the last war. These losses totaled 22 billion gold pengos, or 4.33 billion dollars. The magnitude of this figure will be seen in its true light by a comparison with Hungary's national income, which amounted to 5.9 billion gold pengos in 1938. In other words, the economic loss incurred during the war was five times the prewar annual national income.

The following statistical data, accounting for two thirds of the total amount, indicate in large outlines the distribution of the economic loss.

Agriculture

Hungarian agriculture suffered a loss of 3.7 billion gold pengos during the war. Approximately 1.5 billion gold pengos included in this total represent loss of livestock according to the following breakdown:

Hungary's Loss of Livestock, 1942-45

	<u>1942</u>	<u>1945</u>	<u>Loss</u>
	<u>Number of Animals</u>		
Cattle	2,376,475	1,007,311	1,369,164
Horses	900,434	369,317	531,117
Pigs	4,669,922	1,149,764	3,520,158
Sheep	1,708,464	295,581	1,412,880
Goats	70,975	61,337	9,638

The loss of agricultural products totaled 1.3 billion gold pengos, which is equivalent to the annual production of an area of 3,936,000 hectares. The total area suitable for agricultural production is 5,611,000 hectares.

Losses of agricultural machines were extremely heavy, as indicated by the following figures:

Number of Machines

	<u>In Operation in 1938</u>	<u>Lost During War</u>
Tractors	10,000	1,400
Threshing machines	19,000	3,500
Harvesters	415	132
Steam plows	199	106

In addition, 275,314 farm wagons were destroyed. Losses in forestry and forestry products totaled 200 million gold pengos.

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Industry

The losses in industry totaled over 2 billion gold pengos. The bulk of this loss occurred in the following branches of industry:

<u>Industry</u>	<u>Million Gold Pengos</u>
Machine production	750
Textile	301
Mining	236
Food	209
Chemical	192

Housing, Bridges

The loss caused by the destruction of building and bridges is estimated at 4,053,000,000 gold pengos. Budapest alone suffered a loss of 1.3 billion gold pengos in this field. In Budapest, over 80 percent of the buildings were destroyed or damaged and 23.7 percent of the apartments became unsuitable for housing.

The damage to government buildings represented a total of 731,400,000 gold pengos, and schools and universities were destroyed or damaged to the extent of 218 million gold pengos.

Transportation

The damage to transportation facilities totaled 3,689,000,000 gold pengos, 78.8 percent of which affected the railroads.

Hungary's Loss of Rolling Stock, 1942-1945

	<u>Inventory 1942</u>	<u>Inventory 1944</u>	<u>Percent of 1944 Inven- tory Lost in 1945</u>
Locomotives	2,815	1,588	60.5
Motor cars	195	122	87.7
Passenger cars	6,205	2,366	55.8
Freight cars	59,122	15,381	43.0

Highways, Shipping, Communications

Destruction of highways represented a loss of 7,853,000 gold pengos. Loss of maritime, river, and lake navigation facilities was valued at 139,976,000 gold pengos. The MFTT (Magyar Folyam es Tengerhajozasi Reszvenytarsasag, Hungarian River and Maritime Navigation Corporation) lost 95 percent of its physical properties. Only two small passenger steamers, four river barges, and 12 port barges remained in serviceable condition out of 489 vessels.

The Hungarian Post Office, which also operates the telephone, telegraph, and radio services, sustained a loss of 250,374,000 gold pengos, including technical equipment estimated at 100,700,000 gold pengos. Before the siege of Budapest, 22 Budapest exchanges served 129,000 telephones, while in May 1945 only 6,000 telephones were in operation. The 120-kilowatt radio transmitter and two relay stations were completely destroyed.

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Commerce, Banking, Miscellaneous

Commerce sustained a loss of 1,363,000,000 gold pengos, or more than 30 percent of Hungary's annual trade volume, which amounted to 4,530,000,000 gold pengos in 1941. The heaviest loss, representing 20 percent of the above total, occurred in the textile and clothing business.

Banks, insurance companies, and social security agencies lost 986,997,000 gold pengos. The loss sustained by the Hungarian National Bank was particularly heavy, amounting to 352,100,000 gold pengos in foreign exchange and 166,100,000 gold pengos in metal cover. The country was deprived of its entire metal cover, which amounted to 27,500 kilograms of gold and 232,000 kilograms of silver.

Losses caused by the destruction of medical and hospital laboratory equipment totaled 13 million gold pengos.

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